VOLUME LXVII NUMBER I

EL CABALLERO

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL OCTOBER 1, 1984

District announces new policies

By Harpreet Deol

At the time when educators are trying to improve the American Public Education System,Richmond Unified School District is putting into effect the District Basic Commitment Program "in an effort to guarantee that a rewarding educational experience will be provided to every student at each individual school site."

The policy, to go in effect in October, places responsibility on not only the students but also the parents, teachers, and the administration on such issues as cutting, homework, classwork, and dress code. Comments Principal Mrs. Blackman "Things are getting too loose. Some teachers don't assign homework regularly. Some kids cut classes and still pass." She feels the new policy is "exactly what we need."

One of the most emphasized regulations is the attendence policy which states that if a student has two unexcused absences in a quarter, the teacher is obliged to drop his grade one. For example an C students with two unexcused absence will receive an D for his quarter grade and an A student could fail the course if he has eight or more unexcused absence per quarter. "The first year of this policy is going to hit students pretty hard. I believe there will be many failing grades" says Mrs. Blackman. "This will train students in accepting responsibility. It will also train them of what to expect when they get out of school. If a student truly wants an High School Diploma, then he will have to work for it."

Some of the other policies include Homework which emphasizes that an average student should be assigned at least one-half hour of homework four nights a week in such subjects which require preparation for the next day's class.

The dress policy, purpose of which is to provide an atmosphere conductive to learning, puts restrictions on wearing such garments as tube tops, vests without shirts, short shorts, hats or hair covering, garments where the torso is exposed, clothing or buttons which has obscene words and pictures, or sexually suggestive statements, and hair curlers.

Because of the importance of these regulations, students will be given an copy of the policy to take home for the parents and will also be made awware of the policies during flexi.

"F-rule" revised again

By Judy Chang

The controversial "No F" Rule has again undergone a change.

During the summer the members of the Richmond School Board revised the Scholastic Eligibility Standards for Student Activity Participation. The previous rule made it impossible for any student with an "F" grade to participate in any extracurricular activity until they raise their grades. The new standards, however, allow some students who fail a course to participate in extracurricular activities. According to Mrs. Blackman the previous rule was changed because it was "too inflexible".

cont. back pg.

E.C. welcomes new teachers

Francesca Carmango Margot Cunningham

In the chaos and excitement of the new year eight new faculty faces can be seen about the ECHS campus this year. Leaves and increased enrollment have brought the following teachers and their talents to El Cerrito high.

Miss Wood and Mrs. Mehlhor , English; Mrs. Anthony, health and biology; Ms. Paul, math; Mr. Fabiani, chemistry; Mr. Zaidel, World History and PE; Mrs. Hall, Special Ed., and Mr. Proia, computer programming.

The newest members of the science departmentis Mrs. Anthony. She teaches Health and Biology and began her teaching at a private school in the San Fernando Valley. "I taught 7th through 12th grade valley girls physical science, life science and chemistry," she says.

Mrs. Anthony came into the area because her husband is working on a new

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Foreign students arrive at E.C.

By Sandra Kim and Erika Yutani

The beginning of another school year has flooded ECHS with a horde of new students, among these are several visiting from other countries through groups such as the American Field Service and the Rotary Club. This year El Cerrito is hosting three AFS students: Anna Dahlstrom from Sweden, Andy Probosch from Germany and Celia Urquizu from Bolivia. Also attending El Cerrito, through the Rotary Club, are Anne-Sofie Guillon from France, Kristen Kilsdi from Norway and Magnus Magnuson from Germany. Irene Diller, also from Germany, is living in the area with her family for a year.

Andy Probosch says that in Germany nobody tells you what to wear or what not to wear. "It's ridiculous, they don't let you wear shorts here," he said of the new no shorts rule.

Anna agreed, "At least girls can wear skirts, but guys have to wear long pants even on hot days."

Andy commented on the amount of patriotism Americans have for their country. He didn't feel true patriotism for Germany until he came to America representing it. Anna didn't feel true patriotism either, until her visit to the L.A. Olympics when one of her fellow country men was attempting to win a silver medal.

Celia Urquizu from Bolivia notices a big difference in school size. There were only 28 people in her grade in Bolivia. Celia is beginning to adjust to our lunches here also. In Bolivia, Celia goes home for a big lunch, comprable to dinner here. She is also from a little town, which is somewhat isoslated from other cities.

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The long and short of shorts

By Tim Davis

"I think it's unfair",said one student, referring to the "No short" rule. But Principal Miss Blackman says it very fair.

The "no shorts" rule is just one of the new rules that has been adapted by El Cerrito.El Cerrito has done away with shorts completely,the reason Ms.Blackman says is,"Because last year when we had the 'No short shorts' rule, students were constantly coming up here to the office wasting their time and ours asking if their shorts were appropriate. Now if they couldn't decide on thier own, then they shouldn't have worn them.Miss Blackman also stated that she really doesn't expect the "No shorts" rule to be much of a problem because the students here at El Cerrito are very cooperative. But she does believe that the "No short shorts" rule will cause similar problems at other schools, if so the other schools will ban shorts also. However, whether or not the School Board will ever make "No shorts" an official rule if shorts in school becomes a major problem is not known

There has been arguments made that shorts should be allowed if girls are allowed to wear skirts, but Ms.Blackman says,"Girls who choose to wear skirts usually use good jugdement when it comes to how high skirts should be worn, so there's really no problems with skirts."

The penalty for wearing shorts to school is a quick trip home to change. Ms.Blackman isn't sure how long this rule will be in affect but in about a month she plans to meet with a few students, some teachers, and a couple of parents to dicuss the rule. But until then, hope for cool weather.

FEATURES

dear cabby.....

Dear Cabby,

I am attracted to a married man and he told he's very much attracted to me. I told him we could be friends, though he wants more. I know it's wrong, but I gave him my phone number. Should I tell him it was a mistake and don't call or just tell him firmly, please leave things as they are?

--The Outsider--

Dear Outsider,

Becoming involved with a married man would be a serious mistake. The guilt both of you would feel (you, because you know it's wrong and he, because he's "cheating" on his wife) could put a lot of strain on your relationship, and imagine the hurt feelings that would be involved if his wife found out. The best advice is to tell him to leave things the way they are, but if he persists tell him although you are attracted to him, you feel it would be a serious mistake.

Dear Cabby,

I am a senior this year and I find very few seniors who I'm attracted to, as a matter of fact I am attracted to a sophomore, but I'm afraid he might be afraid he's put out because I'm a senior, what to I do?

--Unhappily Stuck--

P.S. I'm not sure if he likes me, and my friends don't approve.

Dear Unhappily Stuck,

If you really feel strongly toward this person, then go for it. Go for what makes YOU happy, afterall it's your life. Explain to your friends how you feel. they should try to understand and support you in your decision, afterall what are good friends for? As for the guy, handle it like any other relationship. Get to be friends with him, and see how he responds. If he likes you and you like him then the difference in your ages shouldn't be a problem.

Dear Cabby,

I have a cousin that I think is jealous of my boyfriend, because when I'm with my boyfriend he calls me just to ask dumb questions and he tells my grandmother bad things about me and my boyfriend that aren't true. I think he might be jealous because we used to be real close, and that's the reason why I think he is jealous, what should I do about this problem that scares me a lot?

--Scared

Dear Scared,

Explain to your cousin that although your relationship with him has changed, you still value his friendship. If his "jealously" is because the gap in your relationship, he's probably feeling a little left out, so try to spend some time with him. If he realizes that you still care about him, them he'll probably stop giving such you a hard time.

Dear Cabby,

I've been going with a guy for about seven monthes. I think he's "messing around" with another girl. I don't know what I should do, tell him I won't talk to him anymore, tell him, "you hurt me" or simply do the same to him?

--Which One?--

Dear Which One,

The worst thing to do would be to lower yourself to his level, and "mess around" with someone else. Confront him, and try to talk it out. If he wants to still go with you he should definitely apologize, and he'll probably end up appreciating you more if you remain understanding, but hold your ground and don't let him walk all over you. On the other hand, if he does want to break it, don't fight it-- he already has someone else waiting in the wings. Remember, time heals all wounds.

S.A. President speaks out

By Monu Singh

Ah school glorious school. Aren't we all happy to be back; aren't we all excited about our new classes, new teachers, new friends?! Excited by the opportunity to start a fresh year with new resolutions and goals? Yes, but for how long?

We are all, in some way, trapped in the fathomless labyrinth of,"After the excitement and stuff is over" syndrome, that ruthless phenomena that sets in and engulfs its prey only to give a fake sense of responsibility and later promote procrastination and a decrease in scholastic interest. The first two weeks, or so, of school, everything's great;your folders are neat, books in order, your homework assignment sheet, that you made just to show how Gung-Ho you are about school, is being filled everyday with assignments.....that you've been doing. What could be better?

Well, by about the fourth or fifth week of school, things start slowing down; your homework assignment sheet is filled now, and you don't want to make another one, so instead you start using bookcovers, old assignments, gum wrappers, banana peels, anything you can write your homework on, so you can still say, "At least I'm writing it down!"

Your binders start getting images of Zippy the Pinhead, fragments of your imagination and dirty sayings (in between all the homework assignments). Your pencil bag is running thin and you can't even find your favorite pen.

At this point things freeze until the end of the first quarter where you get a slight tingle of rejuvenence and freshness which may cause you to get new Pee Chee folders or new crayons. However, this is a very brief phase that will fizzle out in a week and a half. Now you find yourself entangled in a cermonial function of watching old Gilligan Island reruns before looking in your pockets for your homework assignments. "Harmless" you think.Sure you start off with Giligan flicks but what's next? Soon Bugs Bunny will join in, then maybe a little Fred Flinstone, and before you know it,you can't do your homework without your Brady Bunch fix! Yeah,you think it's no big deal, that you could quit any time you wanted, But try doing your homework before the Brady's go another camping trip, or Sam delevers another chuck roast. No it's too late, your strung out on the Brady Bunch.

Although there's a little bit of "after the excitement and stuff's over" syndrome in most of us, I give you, the students of El Cerrito, a challenge to see if you can resist the temptation of procrastination and laziness. See if you can find it within yourself to become, not a TV watching, mindless, throbbing blob of protoplasm, but a responsible, aware, destiny controlling individual.

Brilliant Buy

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Freshman view of E.C.

By Rebecca Bogy

With the class of 1988 now gracing our presence at ECHS, the Cabby decided to find out their views of our beloved school, home of the Gauchos. The Question: "WHAT, SO FAR, IS THE HARDEST PART OF BEING A FRESHMAN?" was asked in all of the freshman English classes.

The majority of the freshman admitted to feeling scared of freshman hazing, and confused by the big changes in their first few weeks of senior high. Many of them had trouble finding their classes and adjusting to the larger classes. A few freshmen, however, boldly denied having any problems.....yet. Here are some of the answers to "WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF BEING A FRESHMAN?"

--"Trying not to look like a freshman so that the seniors won't walk all over you."

--"...staying away from seniors. They do horrible things to us freshmen."

--"I don't know, and I don't want to know."

--"It's hard finding enough places to hide."

--"Not being trashed when I'm under five feet"

--"The fact that I have four more years until graduation."

--"The seniors sitting on my lap."

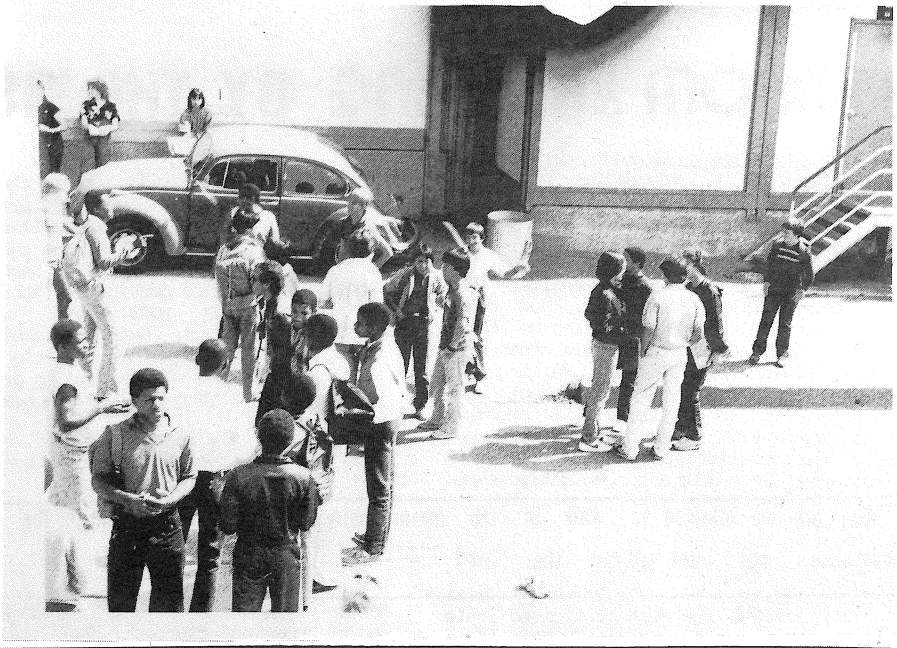
--"Having a brother that's a senior."

--"Not knowing any of the girls."

--"...none of the freshman dudes are fine! That's a killer!"

--"All the girls that I like are juniors or seniors."

--"Initiation. I hate the trash cans already."



Announcements:

JUNIORS

The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be given at El Cerrito High School Saturday, Oct. 20. All college bound juniors should register for this test. Pay $6.50 to the cashier. Show your reciept to the counselor and receive the instruction booklet. KEEP YOUR rECEIPT. It is your admission ticket to the test. Students other than juniors may take the test but are not eligible for National Merit Scholarships from any other year other than their junior year.

California Scholastic Federation (CSF) membership applications are due TODAY!!!!!Put them in Mr. Berman's mailbox in the main office or turn them in at room 73. Late applications will not be accepted.

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES will be here on the following dates:

Holy Names, Oakland,Ca. Oct. 3 - 10 a.m.

Mount St. Marys, Oct. 11 - 10 a.m.

Howard Univ., Washington, Oct.15 - 1 p.m.

Lewis & Clark, Idaho, Oct. 23 - 9:30 a.m.

Univ. of Oregon, Oct. 25 - 8:30 a.m.

BLOOD DRIVE: Oct. 1. Sign-ups in the main office. FREE!!!!That's right Free T-SHIRTS for those who donate. You must be 17 or over to participate.

KECG begins year

Tom Hamma

KECG, El Cerrito High School's student operated radio station, will be off to what looks like a much more promising year as Mr. Heinz Batterman enters his third year as advisor seeking to continue improving the station.

Batterman stated that the station will be airing "a much broader presentation than last year. He said there will be more dramatic reading and not as much scratching and mixing. Batterman feels that the KECG deejays (he'd rather call them "talent") need to expand their musical horizons.

Changes will be made so that the KCEG talent and listeners will have the chance to "investigate other aspects." He said he likes a wide variety of music such as reggae, jazz, acid rock, classical, and punk.

One of the problems that faces the talent and management is that they are "constantly searching for funds while at the same time chewing a lot of bubble gum to patch up equipment," stated Batterman. KECG is working on getting a $20,000. dollar quote for new equipment from another radio station and is continually asking for principal, Mrs. Blackman's support. Hopefully, something will turn up.

Batterman says that most of last year's talent will be returning to the airways and new talent will be getting on shortly. He says that he welcomes all new talent and says it will be easier for new people to get on the air this year.

Last of all, be on the lookout for KECG broadcasting of sports events and the possible showing of live band videos in room 400.

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El Caballero is an official student pulication of El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury, El Cerrto, California 94530. The opinions expressed in editorials are not necessarily those of the El Caballero or the ECHS administration. All Letters to the editor must be signed; the writer's name will be witheld by request. For advertising rates, write to El Cerrito High School, c/o Journalism Department.

RANDOM RAMBLING BY THE INSANITY SQUAD

The new discipline policy is the most ridiculous, laughable, pin-headed collection of asinine literature ever published. The title of the booklet should be retitled "The Communist Manifesto" or better yet, "1984". Ol' George would be proud of the reality that has become of his prediction. How could anyone waste their time thinking up these rules? We're always being told about the large number of students waiting to transfer into El Cerrito High School when there's room, but now there will probably be a large number of people waiting to get out. The Richmond Unified School District has turned ECHS into a concentration camp.

A bit of trivia: What the first subject the Insanity Squad ever printed an editorial for? The question will not pop up in Trivial Pursuit, but the answer is the subject of short shorts. Last year, short shorts were forbidden. Shorts had to be down to your knees. That's ridiculous enough, but now shorts are being outlawed altogether!!! It's hot!! A lot of students need shorts in order to prevent from frying up. Have a heart! It seems that the reason for this rule is that students became distracted by exposed flesh (in not only shorts, but torso-exposing clothes). Well, if this bothers them, why don't they do something about these students? Now this is truly digusting!

A question: Why are we allowed to walk in the main hallway if we enter through the side entrance, but not through the fr

front entrance, walk through, and are five steps away from the Councelor's Office when, what happens? You are told to walk around the building and use the side entrance. Now, for some reason, we can't make any sense of this rule. It is our assumption that this rule exists to keep people form loitering in the front of the school. Instead of telling people to use a different entrance, why don't they spend that time telling the loiterers to get lost? This would make more sense.

"Why are we allowed to walk in the main hallway if we enter through the side entrance. but not through the front ?"

Of course, the most criticized rule of the year is the one stating that if a student has two unexcused absenses in a class, then his grade will be automatically be lowered by one letter. We realize that the instigation of this rule is an attempt to reduce the number of students that cut classes, and, of course, when students miss class, the school loses money. The major problem with this rule is the fact that you have to clear your absenses. For those unfamiliar with the process, you must, after being absent, bring a written note from your guardian and stand in an extremely large line before school, present the note to the "Attendance Lady",who gives you a slip which you circulate to all of your teachers, which excuses you. You can only clear absenses before school, and the line is so long, you usually wind up missing a significant portion of your first period class. If the school expects to justify existance of the new rule, they must make the attendance system easier to cope with. A lot of absences are unexcused only because absentee is too busy or lazy to waste their time in the line and miss some of first period. Missing the beginning of first period can result in lack of information on assignments and test dates.

It usually doesn't help to ask fellow students, because they don't usually know much of anything (see the Insanity Squad's Theory of the Average Intellegence of the Student Body of ECHS.). Luckily, the Ministry attends the school, so the average will still be high. Anyway, this editorial herby makes a request that absenses be easier to clear. We should have the option to clear them before school, during passing periods and lunch, and after school. This will make the rule somewhat more plausible, although it is pure insanity to lower one's academic grade because of a few absences. A grade is suppose to represent your academic achievement, and although attendance is important, it should not lower a grade automatically. Supposedly, you attend school to learn, but it seems that you attend school merely to get a few letters, and whether you learn the material or not, it doesn't seem to matter. What can you do? Learn or get good grades? Enough side tracking (we could write a book on school brain washing techniques.), please make it easier to clear absences.

During lunch period, we have a choice of eating grade-A recycled regurgitation or bringing a cold lunch with a warm drink from home. Of course, those with cars had the opportunity to drive home or go to a decent fast-food "joint" to purchase their meals. But now, no one is allowed in cars during school hours without a permit! What possible harm can there be in students driving off to have a decent lunch? If they aren't mature enough to get back to school in time, they're only hurting themselves by having an unexcused tardy or absence. People who walk to these places have a better chance of being late than drivers, merely because it's quicker to drive than to walk, though, of course, less healthy.

You, the student body, should think about these rules. If we can present the problems with the rules and give reasonable, but equally effective alternatives, we might have a chance of changing them. Don't break the rules though. If you want them changed, you'll have to do it their way. Also remember that it was not the staff at this school responsible for the rules. We, as a high school, are being dictated to by the RUSD. It is the duty of the administration of this school to enforce the rule, and they probably hate them as much as we do. Some sort of student activist group needs to be formed. Through some miracle, they might arrange a meeting with the Inner Party and convince them of the absurdity of these rules. It sounds farfetched, but if student have rights, this should be feasible. Let's erradicate these rules!!!

****

As always, comments and ideas are welecome. Drop them off in room 404 addressed to the Insanity Squad (one of these days we'll change the name so it won't be so tacky).

Election Year

Have you noticed that your favorite television programs are occasionaly being postponed or even canceled? Your probably upset but if you stop swearing at the tube long enough to here whats on instead you might end up being just as entertained and maybe even a little educated at the same time. What could posibly be this exiting? You guessed it. its' election year and this presidential race should be a good one

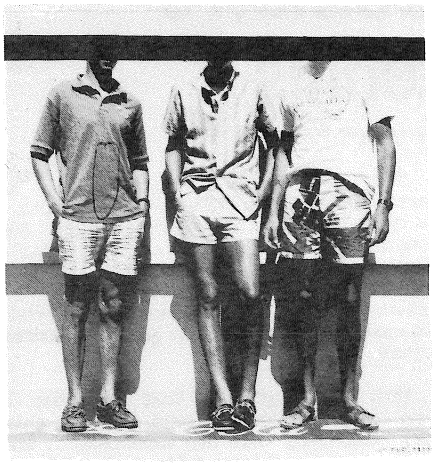
One of the major issues facing the nation and directly affecting you, the student, is the economy. "How does the ailing economy affect me?" you may ask. Well, why can't the swimming team buy it's oun uniforms and why does the forensics team have to sell calenders, candy, raffle tickets and have a jog-a-thon simply to cover incedental expenses? it's because the polititions decided that the best way to help out the economy was to cut taxes and this resulted in decreased revinues and thus less funding to instatutions such as schools. President Reagan supports and uses this practice quite often. He has pledged not to raise taxes if re-elected. Walter Mondale on the other hand has guaranteed that if elected he will absolutely raise taxes, and while your perants may not approve of it, it would almost certainly be a big boost for the public school system.

Yet another issue facing the nation is the issue of prayer in school. For some reason Mr. Reagan feels that our acidemic acheivment would improve greatly if we hade a time set aside during the day during which we could pray. Now on the surface it might seem like a good Idea. Most of us could use a little help on our math analysis tests. Unfortunately there are no real guidelines for the prayer and many fear that the fundementalist minister types will take over the public schools, thus obliterating the age-old constatutional guarantee that the church shall remain seperate from the state. What I want to know is why can't students who want to start their day with a prayer do it at home, in church, or during passing period. Why risk violating the rights of people of different religious persuasions or lack there of.

The issues presented here are by no means the only one in the election but they do affect you. Tell your perants to vote, your future depends on it.

The opinions expressed in these editorials are not necessarily the opinion of the El Caballero staff nor the ECHS administration.

Shorts rule, unfair



By Hilary Sortor

On September 5, many new rules went into effect as the school year began, The ban on shorts was immediately questioned by some students and-in the face of a heat wave-blatantly ignored by others.

By the time a person reaches high-school, he or she is supposed to be mature enough to make a lot of their own decisions. Why not give El Cerrito students the chance to prove this? Rather than penalizing everyone for the irresponsible actions of a few, why not lift the ban and simply send home or suspend those who come to school dressed in shorts that are too revealing?

Another issue is the discrimination against male students. Female students may wear mini-skirts, cropped pants, or skirts, but the only alternative for males now that shorts have been abolished is to wear pants. While the school district may legally forbid shorts to be worn in school, they also have a duty to keep students comfortable.By prohibiting the wearing of shorts, they are subjecting some students to discomfort.

Up to now, the administrators have shown good judgement in choosing a dress code. Unfortunately, it looks as though they have made a mistake this time. Students feel that shorts are essential on hot days, and many will continue to ignore the new rule and wear their shorts in protest.

Why P.E. ?!?!

"Why is there school?", "If schools are a place to learn, why do I have to go to PE?"- If you find yourself asking these, or any other questions about school, then read on for you may find that your questions are answered here.

Let's start with a little background. First, we'll look at a foreign country-the Soviet Union (not Russia!), in that country (the USSR) there is not freedom of speech,(and nobody runs around claiming that there is) because the government censors all material that could give an otherwise productive citizen bad ideas. Now, look at the USofA. Here we have, as a RIGHT the freedom of speech and the press. So, in the USSR they control malcontents before they communicate thier message to anyone, and since we Americans think that this is bad we have to control anti'establishment' messages in some other manner. It is my belief that here in the USofA they don't control the speaker-here they control the listeners.

There are many things that our government deceives us about; it's just a matter of examining the subject closely enough. Therefore, our government doesn't want people to examine its actions too closely. And if you begin to, you are either: bought off (whereby you become a partner to their conspiracy), killed off (it does happen you know) or discredited. Now as low down and sneaky as our government is, they would rather not kill you or share their money with you. Consequently they will attempt to discredit bearers of true but not good tidings. To make this task easier , they use the public school system to a) prevent people from gaining the mental ability to see through thier lies and thus start an uprising, and b) create the proper mental attitude in the 'masses' for them not to believe these 'attacks on the government'.

PE is (of course) designed to turn you into a cruel, callous, unfeeling, uncaring, evil, heartless, atrocious, vicious, bloodthirsty (read: 'competitive') dolt who actually enjoys watching people trying to break each others bones on their tv each Sunday(and Monday etc.). I feel that the abundance of contact sports indicates that we Americans are a bloodthirsty lot (see Roman civilization right before its fall), and is a good indication of the decline of our society.

Upon examination it becomes rather obvious that schools are not the only things involved in this delusion of the masses. Schools are the only manner of guaranteeing that everyone will be subjected to this, as everyone does not watch television (which is itself just as evil as the schools and, for those who watch it for extended periods of time, more effective.).

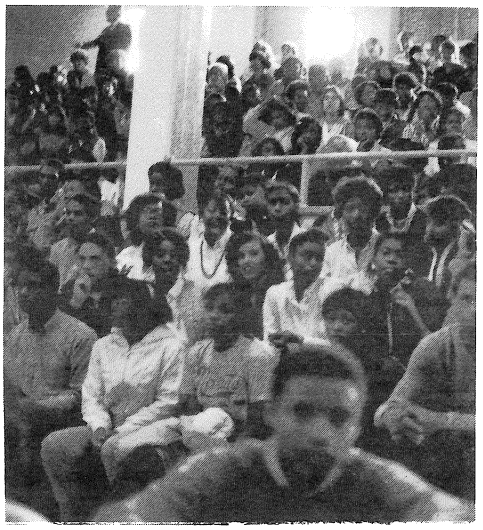
So, in closing, always remember not to take things at face value, what you don't really know can (and does) hurt you.

Thoughts on the purposes of freshman initiation

By Joe Baptist

Aside from tradition and pure cruelty, what are the reasons behind the hazing of incoming students, in other words, freshman initiation?

Here are some of the repliies I recieved when I asked ECHS students about their views of the reasons behind freshman initiation: --"It's done because everyone's stupid" --"It's to test them, to see if they're worthy of respect" --"It builds the upperclassmen's egos" --"People are sadistic and like to pick on each other" --"It's simply a form of entertainment, also because it shows them (the freshmen) who's boss"



Freshmen stoked for the first rally.

It is in my opinion that "hazing" has a valuable purpose, helping the freshmen and the school. The fact of the matter is, people are proud of having been initiated-- I hear freshmen bragging to each other about how many times they got thrown into a garbage can.

The psychological value of initiation becomes apparent when you think about it in this way, you always take better care of something you've earned than something that was simply given to you. Hazing/initiation is the way that new students earn the right to be students here.

This is not to say that I advocate the throwing of freshmen into garbage cans or toilets, for this may cause damage to them and/or their property. This type of initiation brings comments such as: --"The hardest part of being a freshman is going to lunch." or --"Being at school during 'freshman week'"

Your initiation into ECHS should bring back fond memories, more mischief than trouble should be involved in this event and it should be administered by those who have themselves been initiated here at El Cerrito.

It is my firm belief that a proper initiation is one in which all parties involved can laugh about it a day or a week later, it is frighten or embarass than to hurt.

Just remember that as it turns, the wheel of life grinds all those beneath it, and sooner or later everybody's turn comes around.

SPORTS

Gauchos crush Vintage

By Erik Esakson

Friday the 7th, the El Cerrito football team silenced all critics with a decisive 20-7 victory over Vintage High.

The Gaucho defense sparkled, forcing four turnovers. Two interceptions, both returned for touchdowns by senior defensive back John Pickett were the key to the Gauchos second-half surge.

The Gauchos trailed 7-0 at the half. Crusher Rod Wieldrayyer returned a Gaucho punt 30 yards. Four plays later Vintage quarterback Jeff Bridewell scored on a 1 yard run.

The Gauchos threatened late in the 2nd quarter when quarterback Ed Robinette hit John Pickett with a pass at the 1 yard line but the drive was stopped as time expired.

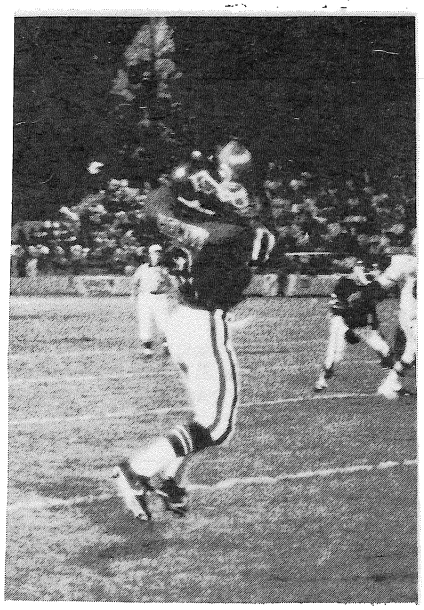
The Gaucho defense turned the game around in the second half. During vintage's first drive, Pickett intercepted a pass and raced 41 yards for the E.C. score. Ed Robinette hit Thomas Gary on a nicely executed roll out for the 2 point conversion and the Gauchos led 8-7.

Pickett added some insurance, when he stole another pass and returned it 24 yards for another E.C. touchdown, putting the Gauchos ahead 14-7.

Robert Moses scored on a 5 yard run following a fumble recovery to round out the scoring at 20-7.

after the game El Cerrito coach Frank Milo said he was pleased with his defense but was concerned with his offense. "We sputtered on offense. We have to eliminate the mistakes we made."

A satisfying victory all the same.



Pete Hewitt recives pass

Returning player #15 Dionne Teasley

Volleyball's New Coach

By Deon Teasley

The 1984-85 Womens Volleyball team faces two major changes this season. These chages include a new coach Roddy Lee and replacements for one-third of the team.

The new Volleyball coach is Roddy Lee.This will be Coach Lee's first time coaching volleyball.Lee says that he has been playing for several years,and has been wanting to coach the sport for sometime.However,this is not Lee's first experience.He coached Kennedy High School's Track&Field team for 11 years.Coach Lee has no idea how this years volleyball team will turn out.The returning varsity players from last year are Nancy Cayton,Li Cho,Dionne Teasley,and Angela De Simoni.

Last year's coach Steve Adachi left ElCerrto this year so that he could spend more time coaching Volleyball at Contra Costa College.Adachi has coached at E.C. for 6 years and has led his teams 3 R.B.A.L.titles and 1 co-championship. In 1982 Adachi's team took 2nd in North Coast Section,also in 83 he was named coach of the year.

Gauchos lose squeaker

By Erik Esakson

The Gauchos suffered a temporary set back with a heartbreaking 21-20 loss to host Pittsburg September 14.

The E.C. offensed was led by Jesse Lea's 140 yards and the passing of Ed Robinette. The Gauchos moved almost at will building up a 20-7 lead at half-time. The defense kept Pittsburg in check until the fourth quarter when the Pirates struck for a pair of touchdowns on fourth down screen plays the second of which they scored with only 1:04 remaining in the game.

Coupled with an impressive showing against Pittsburg and #1 Antiochs loss to Vintage (a team which the Gauchos beat), E.C. remained in the top ten in the prep rankings as #4.

New start for women's tennis

By Leslie Soo and Rebecca Bogy

The ECHS women's tennis team is starting over fresh this year, with both a new coach and many new players. Mrs. Sue Rosenthal will be replacing last year's women's tennis team coach, MR. lofton. Many of last year's excellent players graduated last year, and have been replaced by new freshmen and sophomore players.

Mrs. Rosenthal says that less than a dozen girls are on the team so far this year, but many more are expected. The tennis team practices daily from 3:00 to 4:00 pm at the ECHS courts. Students wishing to join the team should be on the courts at this time.

The team is practicing technical moves, trying to get ready for their first match this year, against Encinal on September 18. According to Mrs. Rosenthal, the team will be working very hard this year until the season ends, November 1. The Gaucho team will be playing about two matches per week until then.

The team is hoping to get uniforms this year. Mrs.Rosenthal believes that uniforms will help unite the team and give them school spirit.

X-country prepares

By Veli Lehman

Jack Browne is back for his second year coaching the Cross Country team, and without the loss of runners to graduation, both the men's and women's teams hope to catch Berkeley at the RBAL championship meet.

The men's team will be led by sophomore Alex DaSilva, juniors Dan Crawford and 1983 Most Valuable Runner, Stuart Wiseman. Coach Browne is not sure who will round off the varsity team but there are other returning runners and some new freshmen who should be able to fill the remaining places.

In the women's competition, 1983 league champion Teresa Poy and sophomores Debbie Binnall and Veli Lehman will provide a strong base for the varsity team. Other veteran runners include seniors Jennette Engel, Karen Edmondson, Shelly Fortier, and sophomore Rosie Stoneall.

Upcoming invitationals include Artichoke Invitational, September 29, and Crystal Springs Invitational, October 6. Coach Browne believes that "both the men's and women's teams have improved over last year and have a good chance at winning the league meet, but it will be a little harder for the men than the women."

MAJOR CHANGES IN COACHING STAFF

Robby Momono and Dionne Teasley

The 1984-85 sports program will undergo several changes as four of last year's coaches Larry Quirico, Jim Pappakostas, Dennis Giuntini, and Steve Adachi left coaching at El Cerrito High school.

The Loss of Legendary baseball coach Larry Quirico will be a loss to El Cerrito's baseball team. Quirico announced last year that he would retire from baseball but he plans to stay as a physical education instructor. Over his 15-year reign, he compiled a 251-140 record. He also coached his team's to eight league championships(the last four years in a row), two North Bay Regional titles, and a spectacular season with a 27-1 record and a North Coast Section Championship.Quirico also took numerous coach of the year honors for his outstanding work.

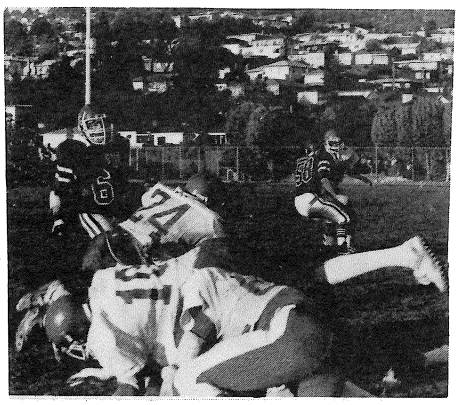
Jim Pappakostas is leaving El Cerrito after a splendid career coaching basketball. After nine years of instruction he compiled a total of four R.B.A.L. titles and won EC's only undisputed R.B.A.L. crown. In 1982-83 his team finished second in the North Coast Section, dropping the championship game against Bishop O'Dowd. Pappakostas coached his teams to an amazing eighty percent of victories in the R.B.A.L.. Pappakostas is leaving EC to go to Washington to teach part-time and coach the basketball team of Wenatchee Junior College.

fortunately, EC has found a new coach to replace Mr. Pappakostas, Eric Zaidel will be the new basketball coach. Zaidel is experienced as he led St. Helena to two North Central League titles and two North Coast Section A championships. He's been the coach for Napa Junior College the last three years.

volleyball also lost their head coach, Steve Adachi. Adachi left EC to spend more time coaching the Contra Costa College volleyball team. In Adachi's time as volleyball coach, he led his teams to 3 R.B.A.L. titles and co-championships in 1983, taking his 1982-83 team to the N.C.S. for a solid second place finish. Adachi was also named coach of the year in 1983.

Roddy Lee will take over as the volleyball coach.Lee has played the sport of volleyball but never coached it. However, he is familiar with coaching concepts since he was Kennedy's track and field coach for 11 years. Hopefully, both Zaidel and Lee can provide as much spark and pick up where Pappakostas and Adachi left off.

Former football head coach Dennis Giutini, is now relaxing in Susanville to be in the mountains away from the city's chaos and congestion.



Gridders hope for good season

By Amer Moorhead

Following their four straight Richmond Berkeley Athletic League Championshipand reaching the North Coast Sectional finals last year, the El Cerrito High Varstiy football team has their work cut our for them this season. The Gauchos' spectacular 1983 team lost 15 starters to graduation last June leaving only seven returning starters.

In the opinion of many people, their defense appeared to be their weakest point, as they had only three returning starters, Keith Alexander, All Leaguer, Thomas Gary, and Pete Hewitt. These gridders, however, are beginning to resemble the intimidating Crunch Bunch of a year ago. But, with upcoming potentials, Lee Brannon, Mike Garcia, Robert Moses, Marlon Perry, John Pickett and John Walker, the E.C. defense hopes to be as devestating as last year's squad.

On the other hand, the office is getting off to a slow start much to Coach Frank Milo's dismay. Despite the fact that they have four of the five starting linemen returning, which would have been a godsend to most prep coaches, the offense has splutterd through the early part of the 1984 season. Offensive coordinator, Steve Werrin, can boast of his running backs, Jesse Lea and Craig Moore, not to mention his four returning linemen, All Leaguer Lee Brannon, Forrest Coleman, All Leaguer Alan Lee and Erik Strausheim. The problem area is the passing attack, since the position of starting quarterback (Tracy Purvis or Ed Robinette) has not been determined yet.

As a whole, this year's team has less talent than last year's, but it has the "heart" that can guide a team to victory. Once again defense is the key to sucess, if they can cause cruicial turnovers, the Gauchos will win.

Sports Calendar

FOOTBALL

Varsity

Sept. 28 Oakland @ E.C. 3:30
Oct. 5 Hogan @ Hogan 8:00
Oct. 12 Kennedy @ E.C. 3:30
Oct. 19 DeAnza @ E.C. 3:30
Oct. 26 Berkeley @ Berkeley 5:30
Nov. 2 Pinole @ E.C. 7:30

VOLLEYBALL

Varsity

Oct. 4 Kennedy @ E.C.
Oct. 9 Pinole @ Pinole
Oct. 11 DeAnza @ E.C.
Oct. 18 Berkeley @ Berkeley
Oct. 23 Kennedy @ Kennedy
Oct. 25 Pinole @ E.C.
Oct. 30 DeAnza @ DeAnza
Nov. 6 Berkeley @ E.C.
Nov. 8 Playoff, if needed

GIRL'S TENNIS

Varsity

Sept. 27 Alameda @ Alameda
Oct. 2 Moreau @ E.C.
Oct. 3 Encinal @ E.C.
Oct. 4 Berkeley @ E.C.
Oct. 9 Bishop O'Dowd @ E.C.
Oct. 11 Presentation @ Presentation
Oct. 16 Carondelet @ E.C.
Oct. 17 Piedmont @ E.C.
Oct. 18 Moreau @ Moreau
Oct. 23 Berkeley @ E.C.
Oct. 24 Albany @ Albany
Oct. 25 Bishop O'Dowd @ Bishop O'Dowd
Oct. 29 Presentation @ E.C.
Nov. 1 Carondelet @ Carondelet

CROSS COUNTY

Sept. 29 Artichoke Invit.
at Half Moon Bay
Oct. 6 Crystal Springs Invit.
at Belmont
Oct. 8 Stanford Invit
at Stanford Golf Course
Oct. 13 Stevenson Invit.
at Pebble Beach
Oct. 20 Soquel Invit.
at Soquel H.S.
Oct. 31 B.A.A.L. Championship
Nov. 10 N.C.S. 3A Championship
Hidden Valley PK Martinez
Nov. 17 N.C.S. Meet of Championships
Lafayette Reservoir
Nov 24 C.I Nor Cal Regional
Sj a College, Rocklin
Nov. 25 Point Isabel Run (fundraiser)
Point Isabel
Dec. 1 Kinney Western Regional
Woodward Park, Fresno

The El Caballero is looking for advertisers. Any interested party should cotact the Journalism Dept. at 540 Ashbury Ave.

Students cont'd.

Kristin Kilsdi of Norway noted the big difference in Norwegian and Californian weather, saying that it rained or snowed 362 days in her hometown of Alesund last year. The racial mix of Blacks, Asians, Whites, Hispanics and others at ECHS provided another great contrast to her daily life in Norway. Although there are Asians in her town they attend separate schools, so Kristin's high school is vitually all Caucasian. According to Kristin the teachers in Norway expect the students to be responsible for themselves and their grades, and unlike American teachers do not consider their role to be that of disciplinarians, but rather that of advisors. Another one of the more negative aspects of the U.S. is the high crime rate, and the uneasiness that accompanies it. When going out the street by herself, Kristin had to be more aware of her surroundings. On the subject of fashion she noted that Norwegians are much more fashion conscious than Americans. In Norway, if a person is not wearing the "right clothes" they may not be socially accepted. She also added that in the U.S. there is a greater variety in the styles.

Irene Diller from Muenster, West Germany was surprised that the Pledge of Alliegience was recited every day in American schools. She said, because of Hitler, and Germany's role in World War I and II, the people feel apprehensive about being patriotic. Irene agreed with Kristin about the greater feeling of uneasiness when out at night in the U.S. adding that in Germany the sun ususally doesn't set until 11:00 pm.

Anne-Sofie Guillon is here through the Rotary Club from Mont-de Marsan, France. Although there are people of many ethnic backgrounds in her city, there aren't as many as there are in California. Concerning fashions, Anne Sophie said the French are influenced by the English and that unlike Norway and Sweden, the French where many different styles of clothes.

Magnus Magnuson from west Germany said that German schools are much stricter than U.S. schools, "The teachers put down the rules," he explained. The clothes worn by students are more conservative and people sometimes aren't admitted into stores and parties if they're wearing jeans and tennis shoes. This attitude and many other aspects of life in West Germany are completely different from East Germany and according to Magnus simple cannot be compared.

Studying in the U.S., the students must take a complete class load while studying a foreign language. Not only do they learn about our cultures and philosophies, we learn from them too.

Teachers cont.

program at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley.

"I had heard good thingsn about this school even before I came here," recals Anthony, "I was very lucky to get this position. El Cerrito High is a beautiful schol and the students are motivated and full of fun."

The new addition to the math teachers is MS. Paul who is taking the place if Mrs. Lavin. She teaches Algebra and Geometry Concept and taught for a while in New Jersey before moving on to Crespi Junior High.

"El Cerrito is a nice High School," says Paul, "there are good students and its been a pleasure so far. The faculty ils verfy helpful."

This is Ms. Paul's first high school situation and she is greatly looking forward to it.

Ms. Wood is the new English and Drama teacher. She had taught at Helms Junior High last year and has been a substitute teacher in this district for three years so she knows a lot of people here at E.c.h.s.

"I'm absolutely delighted!," she says about her new job here, "I'm pleased with the quality of the students here."

When asked about plans for the future, Wood replied, "I'm looking forward to building up the drama department and working with it."

Mr. Fabini is teaching chemistry, physics, and science. Before becoming a teacher here Fabini was at UC Berkely, working on a project analyzing physics textbooks. This venture brought him to Mr. Beck, who teaches physics here. Beck asked him if he would like to be a student teacher for him. Fabini accepted the offer, at the same time finishing a degree at Berkeley.

Mr. Zaidel is teaching world history and a P.E. conditioning class, as well as replacing Mr. Pappakostos as a basketball coach.

He found out about the job as a coach from one of his many friends who work in the Richmond Unified School District. After talking with Mrs. Blackman he got the job.

Mr. Fabini and Mr. Zaidel both like it here at El Cerrito High School. "So far it's great," says Mr. Fabini. Zaidel, who went to El Cerrito High and graduated in 1965, says, "It's sort of interesting to come back after that much time. Lots of things have changed; some things are the same."

Mrs. Mehlhorn teaches English and Reading to 9th graders. She is a transfer from Harry Ells High.

"I like El Cerrito High," she stated. Mehlhorn came to El Cerrito because she heard that Ells might close and also because her best friend works at the school.

Mehlhorn has taught for 22 years and says, "I got into teaching by accident." She went to college and just liked the English subjects. She is married and has one child.

Another new member is Ms. Hall, a Relsource Specialist who teaches Special Education.

El Cerrito is fine and nice," says Hall. "I'm impressed with El Cerrito and the studentrs. For a large school, it's clean and quiet."

Hall came from Pinole Jr. High because she wanted a change from teaching elementary and junior high school kids.

She has taught for 18 years and has three children.

Mr. Proia teaches Computer Programming and Computer Science. He taught at Ells before coming to EC.

"I love kids,"said Proia "and El Cerrito is a fine school. It's a nice change and kids at EC are involved with school and education."

Proia has taught for 15 years and is still going strong.

Proia added, "I heard good news about El Cerrito and I'm impressed by Mrs. Blackman the principal."

New teachers - Welcome to El Cerrito High School.

Unfortunately, due to deadline restrictions, the El Caballero was unable to interview other new teachers: Mr. Rammer, science and biology and Mr. Price, Algebra I and Intro Geometry.

F Rule cont.

The new rule states that a student must meet both the Richmond Unified School District and the California Interscholastic Federation Eligibility Requirements. The RUSD standards require that all classes required for graduation taken the previous quarter be passed, so a student may be eligible the next quarter. These are the courses a student must pass: English, Mathematics, Physical Eduacation, Science, American Government, World History, U.S. History, Fine Arts or Foreign Language. However, the student receives an "F" in the second or fourth quarter, but passes for the semester, the semester mark will determine the student's eligibility.

To remain eligible, students must earn at least 25 credits each semester to maintain a steady progress towards graduation.

However, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), which acts as an "umbrella organization" for California schools, only asks that students remain enrolled in a minimum of four classes. Those students must pass all four classes to earn 20 semester credits and to satisfy the CIF requirements.

The new rule will undoubtedly affect a handful of students. Does this rule help the students? Not according to Mrs. Blackman, no. In fact she says that "the new rule will hurt any student who fails in the first year of high school, as they will not be on track for graduation."

GIVE ♥ BLOOD

Date Monday, October 1,1984

Time 8:30am-2:30pm

Location Room 48 and 49

Free t-shirts for all donors!

You must be at least 17 years of age